

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A method of operating a spinning
2 device having a multiplicity of spinning apertures through which a
3 molten plastic can emerge, said method comprising the steps of:

4 (a) closing dirt-contaminated or clogged spinning
5 apertures of said spinning device with plugs consisting at least in
6 part of at least one oxidizable substance which, upon oxidative
7 decomposition, ~~enables removal of~~ destroys the plugs;

8 (b) subjecting at least a portion of said device
9 containing said apertures and said plugs to a pyrolysis treatment
10 for breakdown of residual plastic on said portion of said device;
11 and

12 (c) subjecting said portion of said device to an
13 oxidative treatment to ~~effect oxidation of~~ oxidize said substance
14 and ~~destruction of~~ destroy said plugs.

1 2. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein
2 said plugs consist of graphite and the oxidizable substance.

1 3. (original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein
2 said oxidizable substance consists at least in part of amorphous
3 carbon.

1 4. (original) The method defined in claim 3 wherein the
2 pyrolysis treatment in step (b) is carried out at a subatmospheric
3 pressure.

1 5. (original) The method defined in claim 4 wherein the
2 pyrolysis treatment in step (b) is carried out under inert
3 conditions.

1 6. (original) The method defined in claim 5 wherein the
2 oxidative treatment in step (c) is carried out at a temperature
3 above 100°C in the presence of at least one oxidizing medium.

1 7. (original) The method defined in claim 6 wherein the
2 oxidative treatment is carried out at a temperature above 150°C.

1 8. (original) The method defined in claim 7 wherein
2 said oxidative treatment is carried out at a temperature between
3 200°C and 600°C.

1 9. (original) The method defined in claim 8 wherein the
2 oxidative treatment is carried out at a temperature of 250°C to
3 550°C.

1 10. (original) The method defined in claim 9 wherein
2 the oxidative treatment is carried out at a temperature of 350°C to
3 500°C.

1 11. (original) The method defined in claim 10 wherein
2 the oxidizing medium is air or pure oxygen.

1 12. (original) The method defined in claim 11 wherein
2 the oxidative treatment is carried out at a reduced pressure.

1 13. (original) The method defined in claim 12 wherein
2 said portion is cleaned following at least one of said treatments
3 in an ultrasound bath.

1 14. (original) The method defined in claim 13 wherein
2 said portion is cleaned following at least one of said treatments
3 with a high-pressure cleaner.

1 15. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein
2 said oxidizable substance consists at least in part of amorphous
3 carbon.

1 16. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein
2 the pyrolysis treatment in step (b) is carried out at a
3 subatmospheric pressure.

1 17. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein
2 the pyrolysis treatment in step (b) is carried out under inert
3 conditions.

1 18. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein
2 the oxidative treatment in step (c) is carried out at a temperature
3 between 350°C to 500°C in the presence of at least one oxidizing
4 medium selected from the group which consists of air, oxygen-
5 enriched air and pure oxygen.

1 19. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein
2 said portion is cleaned following at least one of said treatments
3 in an ultrasound bath.

1 20. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein
2 said portion is cleaned following at least one of said treatments
3 with a high-pressure cleaner.